

Indiana Teacher Advisory Council Meeting  
*December 2, 2004*

DOE Coordinator: Cathy Danyluk

Indiana Department of Education: Dr. Suellen Reed

Milken Educators present: Sherry Annee, Ralph Walker, Mark Weaver, Christine Michaels, Matt Walsh, David Sell, Rick Crosslin, Stacey Atwood, Jan Weir, Bonnie Fancher.

State Teachers of the Year: Kim Giesting, Katherine Stahl, Larry Hurt and this year's winner, Molly Steward.

New Milken Members: Daphne Draa and Mariama Shaheed-Carson

Special Guest: Kay Harmless

Mark and Cathy started out the morning with introductions and updates on different exciting projects in which the different Milken educators have been involved: Sherry went to a national biotechnology conference in San Francisco, Jan went to a national technology conference (for asynchronous learning) in Orlando, David now is back working with kids teaching science as well as working as an assistant principal, Matt is getting ready to become an assistant principal in January, Rick will continue working at the Children's Museum for the next five years.



Matt described his distance learning project "Elevate" (Enriched Learning Experiences Via Advanced Technology Education) with two other teachers in two other schools on each side of the country (one in Long Beach, California and one in Cranford, New Jersey). One part of the project involves investigating the effects of urban sprawl and with three different content areas: geography, ethics and conservation. He has his own students who are partnered with the high school students.

David Sell indicated that the MFF would like to keep updated on the different activities in which the IMEN educators are involved. Send this information to [dsell@decaturco.k12.in.us](mailto:dsell@decaturco.k12.in.us)

Mark reminded us of the IMEN mission statement which was presented to both Daphne and Mariama: "...to celebrate, support, retain and advance quality educators and to advocate for the children of Indiana."

Kay Harmless presented "Get energized for year of extreme leadership." She started with an activity which involved discussing why kids drop out and comparing that to teacher duties. It is so important to establish that one-on-one relationship with each of your



students - this is what effects change. That "passion" that each of us has the ability to transform the educational environment.

What's the most important thing that you want to impart to your students? "Learning how to learn," "realize that learning is lifelong," "have a passion and a love for whatever you do," "need to help our kids to learn to think."

Our boxed lunch from IndyAnnas, as usual, was wonderful. During lunch, we were honored by the presence of Dr. Suellen Reed. She will be making the state education budget on Monday and gave us a brief synopsis of what she will be presenting.

One of the items discussed involves the development of the cut scores for the GQE test. The cut scores, once defined, will be the same until the next test is developed (typically seven years from now). The people who are involved in this process are high school teachers and specialists from different universities (in psychometrics). Dr. Reed hopes that the GQE will stay in place for the fall and then offer the CORE 40 end-of-course assessments (electronically, if possible) in the spring.



As any of us have comments or suggestions about the statewide testing, we are encouraged to email them to Cathy Danyluk.

We were introduced to Dorothy Winchester who asked if any of us were interested in participating in the on-line CORE 40 Biology ECAs. The Algebra I, English 11 and Biology tests will be given during the month of May.

This afternoon, we were joined by several Indiana Teacher of the Year Award winners.

Larry described his passion for the importance of the arts as it relates to the education of the whole child - and, not just for those students who come from "good families." Daphne added to this in describing the kinds of programs that are available to the students in IPS who she teaches.



Mark piggybacked on this discussion describing the communication which is occurring at the DOE level between all of the different departments and that this will help the overall educational process.

Mark also discussed the ongoing changes which are

happening on the DOE website to make it more user friendly and more accessible to the people who need to use the information stored there.

Matt continued to share his experiences with his MFF grant with the rest of the large group. <http://staffweb.brownsburg.k12.in.us/~mwalsb>

Dr. Reed would like each of us to contact one of our legislators - we are going to create a letter to send to them in order to help communicate those issues which are important.

In addition, we had a wonderful reception at the Indiana Statehouse for our two newest Milken winners, Daphne and Mariama.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Carroll Weir